

my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are in interesting times. I think it was Confucius who said to live in interesting times is a great opportunity. It is.

Unfortunately, the rule of law and democracy are at stake. And as they are and as the Intel Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Oversight and Reform Committee have hearings—and later, there will be public hearings—we are seeing American heroes emerge.

Today, an American hero, a lieutenant colonel who earned a Purple Heart, will be testifying. Colonel Vindman listened to the conversation between President Zelensky and President Trump, and he will testify as to what happened. It won't be a memorandum; it will be what really took place on that call and why it alarmed him so much.

The administration doesn't want Colonel Vindman to testify, but he is testifying because he is a patriot, because it is his duty, and because he knows what is at stake.

What is at stake is democracy. What is at stake is our Constitution. What is at stake is our Republic.

□ 1045

We have had other people testify, the Ambassador who was removed 2 months early because she refused to go along with what was taking place, and Ms. Fiona Hill. These are heroes. These are patriots.

Unfortunately, on some news networks that are mouthpieces for the administration, they have had their patriotism questioned, and they have been vilified.

This is the beginning of despotism. When heroes who come forth with proud careers of service in the State Department or the military, without a blemish on their record, and without trying to benefit financially from anybody at all, except doing their job for the United States of America, are questioned because they come forth to testify as to information that threatens our Constitution, that shows abuse of power and an effort to not comply with our Constitution and carrying out congressionally-mandated spending to protect a country fighting Russian aggression in their own territory.

These are not people like Manafort, and Flynn, and Carter Page, who wanted and got money from Ukrainians, and Turks, and Russians, and others to benefit themselves from countries that do not have our interests at heart.

So, as we live through these interesting times, let us appreciate the heroes that are emerging, giving testimony, and putting their jobs and their

future security and their reputations at risk because, unfortunately, rather than being hailed as the heroes that they truly are, they are being vilified; and that is dangerous, and it is concerning to me.

Some of the people that vilify them praise people like Flynn and Manafort, who sold our country out for their own personal advancement and riches.

America, beware, and honor those who stand up for you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Evan Hoffman, Congregation Anshe Sholom, New Rochelle, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bless the work of the United States House of Representatives. Fortify our legislators' constitutional commitments and grant them the wisdom to draft laws that best serve the interests of the American people. O Lord, in a time of polarization and rancorous dispute, we beseech Thee to help our elected officials maintain decorum, civility, commonality of purpose, and a sense of shared American destiny.

Heavenly Father, guide our Representatives so that they might serve, in the eyes of the citizenry, as role models of reconciliation and cooperation. We pray that in a future time the prophet's words might be said in reference to this Congress: "Restore your judges as in days of old, your counselors as at the beginning."

Bless our Nation with peace and prosperity, our citizens with health and happiness, and our national institutions with strength and stability. May this be Your will, and let us say: amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI EVAN HOFFMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my dear friend and constituent, Rabbi Evan Hoffman, for giving the opening prayer today.

Rabbi Hoffman has led Congregation Anshe Sholom in New Rochelle, New York, since 2012. He graduated Yeshiva College summa cum laude, where he received ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan's Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Hoffman is an accomplished author, writing the weekly essay series titled "Thoughts on the Parashah," as well as the editor of English language publications for Talmud Israeli.

Rabbi Hoffman was raised in Great Neck, New York, and is an avid New York Mets fan. Rabbi Hoffman and his wife, Sari, are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Eliyahu and Elana.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for the wonderful prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE APPROVAL OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House approval of the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act legislation led by Chairman CHARLIE CRIST, of which I am a proud cosponsor, directing grants, training, and assistance for communities to establish and operate veteran treatment courts.

In 2008, Buffalo City Court Judge Robert Russell established the very first veteran treatment court in the Nation. Today, there are over 400 such courts. These specialized courts provide veterans, many battling substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder, with a tactical path to avoid jail and take command of their future.

At their side are fellow veterans, also known as battle buddies, who serve as volunteer mentors, as well as judges and professional staff who can connect these warriors with VA benefits. Support for veteran treatment courts allows the Nation to give veterans what they have given us: freedom and peace.